

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
FOR OLIVE CROPS**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today which will allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue publishing information on the American olive industry. The industry, composed of 1,000 olive growers and the olive processors in California, heartily supports this proposal and urges that we act upon it as soon as possible.

Under federal law, the Department has allowed publication of information on olive crops and inventory for years. These statistics have given farmers, processors and food buyers critical information about the state of the industry. The statistics cover crop outlook, including expected production, inventories and carryover stocks, sales and other matters.

These statistics are important for a variety of reasons. Farmers use them when they bargain collectively with processors to sell a crop. The crop information also helps set assessments growers will pay to support research, marketing and inspection in the industry. The inventory and quality information made available to potential buyers helps create a more efficient market for sales of processed olives.

These figures are important because olives are an "alternate bearing" crop—every other year, crop size varies substantially. In some years, the crop will be double what was produced in the year before. When you consider that olive farmers may see crops vary by as much as 100,000 tons, you can see why farmers, processors and food companies would want accurate information about stocks and future supplies.

We need to pass legislation to allow the statistics to be issued because California has seen the number of olive processors fall during the past decade. With only two processors left in the foreseeable future, the Department of Agriculture is unable to publish information as the law is written today. My bill will give the Department the authority to continue releasing information on the industry.

The bill I am introducing offers a simple, targeted solution to the industry's trouble. The bill will permit the Department to release information if both the remaining processors (called "handlers" under the law) agree in writing that statistics on their operations may be released. The amendment would apply only to olives.

The bill has the strong support of California and national industry groups. It has been endorsed by the Olive Growers Council, The California Olive Association, the California League of Food Processors and the National Food Processors Association. They hope as do I that Congress will complete action on the bill in the near future.

THE MOST MEMORABLE FLIGHT
OF 1999**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in March 1999 a flight crew from Lockheed Mar-

tin's Marietta, Georgia plant flew a C-130J into the record books. Aboard this flight was Lyle Schaefer, then Chief Experimental Test Pilot for Lockheed Martin, Pilot Arlen Rens, and Loadmaster Tim Gomez. They flew an unmodified C-130J with a payload of 22,500 pounds, and set 16 new world aviation records. Included in these was a record set in the Short Takeoff and Landing Category, where the crew took off and landed in less than the required 1,640 feet. For this and the many other records, the National Aeronautic Association dubbed this the "Most Memorable Flight of 1999," during a March 27, 2000 ceremony at the National Air and Space Museum.

The C-130J currently holds 54 world records and is the indisputable world leader in air-lifting capabilities. This is due in no small part to the men and women who build this fantastic aircraft, but especially the crew from Marietta, Georgia who piloted the "Most Memorable Flight of 1999."

TRIBUTE TO JUDY WHITBRED

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a woman who has performed more than 30 years of service to this Nation is retiring, and I feel like I am losing my right arm.

Judy Whitbred has been my Chief of Staff the entire time I have been in Congress, and I am now in my 12th year in the House.

I have relied on Judy for thousands of things, big and small, day in and day out for all these years.

She has served with great dedication to the people of the Second District of Tennessee for almost 20 years, working first for my father and then for me.

She worked for more than a decade for Congressman John Hunt of New Jersey and Congressman Bill Young of Florida before starting to work for the people of Tennessee.

I have heard Judy Whitbred described by several people as "the best on Capitol Hill." I believe this to be true.

No one could have worked for the citizens of the Second District with more kindness and compassion than Judy. I know that no one would have worked harder.

Almost every night and most weekends, she took work home. I do not know how she was ever able to do nearly as much as she did.

Perhaps more importantly than simply working hard and putting in long hours, she produced results. She got the job done.

Many projects for the Second District and many problems that were solved for individuals, and for which I sometimes received credit, were really the result of Judy's hard work.

Judy unfortunately for me is taking early retirement to be able to spend more time with her husband, Andy, and help in the family business.

Judy's retirement is a great loss for me and my constituents, but it is very well deserved. I wish her the very best in the years ahead in every way.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, Judy Whitbred is a young woman from the old school—dedicated to the Congress and to the American people.

She is a truly great American, and this Country would be a much better place if we had more people like my friend, my boss, my pal, Judy Whitbred.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, during the great debates between Senator Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln in 1858, Lincoln stood before thousands of hostile spectators to contest the moral issue of slavery in America. He warned of a nation that treaded upon the principles of equality and freedom, "Let us," Lincoln said, "united as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal." His words, and dreams, renewed the heart of the nation to fulfill our promise to all people no matter their color, creed, or class.

Today, we too stand at a moment of decision. The debate on banning partial birth abortion provides us an opportunity of a lifetime—to protect the most innocent lives among us. This debate strikes at the very heart of who we are as a people—the core of our conscience and the character of our nation. It is our time, just as Lincoln answered the call of his convictions, to defend the defenseless and speak for those without voices.

What a privilege it is to make the right decision today.

Some in this House have cheapened this debate through distortions and distractions—not willing to unveil the reality that only seconds and inches separate thousands of children from life and death every year.

In Lincoln's time, our nation deemed slaves sixty-percent human. We shackled their legs and beat their backs. We disposed of them as mere chattel, auctioning them like cattle and demanded they give their life and labor for our prosperity. Are we much different today? We deem innocent babies—with kicking feet and beating hearts—less than human. We dispose of them as useless, in pretentious compassion discarding them as "unwanted."

Abortion is the civil rights issue of our time. This partial-birth abortion ban rescues our children from the slavery of choice.

I ask this body to make the right choice. Join Lincoln in the hallmarks of history as people who shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the ban on partial birth abortions.

DESIGNATION OF APRIL 9, 2000 AS
WILLIE AND BERNICE RUCKER
DAY IN THIRTIETH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I proclaim April 9, 2000 as "Willie